

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

Germeraad *et al.*

Appl. No. 09/545,564

Filed: April 7, 2000

For: **Patent-Related Tools and  
Methodology for Use in Research  
and Development Projects**

Confirmation No.

Art Unit: 2176

Examiner: Heather Herndon

Atty. Docket: 1531.0310001

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**Information Disclosure Statement**

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Listed on accompanying Form PTO-1449 are documents that may be considered material to the examination of this application, in compliance with the duty of disclosure requirements of 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98.

Where the publication date of a listed document does not provide a month of publication, the year of publication of the listed document is sufficiently earlier than the effective U.S. filing date and any foreign priority date so that the month of publication is not in issue. Applicants have listed publication dates on the attached PTO-1449 based on information presently available to the undersigned. However, the listed publication dates should not be construed as an admission that the information was actually published on the date indicated.

Applicants reserve the right to establish the patentability of the claimed invention over any of the information provided herewith, and/or to prove that this information may not be prior art, and/or to prove that this information may not be enabling for the teachings purportedly offered.

This statement should not be construed as a representation that a search has been made, or that information more material to the examination of the present patent application does not exist. The Examiner is specifically requested not to rely solely on the material submitted herewith.

Applicants have checked the appropriate boxes below.

- ☒ 1. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed within three months of the date of filing of a national application other than a continued prosecution application (CPA), OR within three months of the date of entry of the national stage as set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.491 in an international application, OR before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits OR before the mailing of a first Office Action after the filing of a request for continued examination under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114. No statement or fee is required.
- ☐ 2. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed more than three months after the U.S. filing date AND after the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits, but before the mailing date of a Final Rejection, or Notice of Allowance, or an action that otherwise closes prosecution in the application.
  - ☐ a. I hereby state that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(1).
  - ☐ b. I hereby state that no item of information in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application and, to my knowledge after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(2).
  - ☐ c. Attached is our Check No. \_\_\_\_\_ in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ in payment of the fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p).

- ☐ 3. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed more than three months after the U.S. filing date and after the mailing date of a Final Rejection or Notice of Allowance, but before payment of the Issue Fee. Enclosed find our Check No. \_\_\_\_\_ in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ in payment of the fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p); in addition:
- ☐ a. I hereby state that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(1).
- ☐ b. I hereby state that no item of information in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application and, to my knowledge after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(2).
- ☒ 4. The documents were cited in a search report by a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application. A copy of the search report is enclosed.
- ☐ 5. A concise explanation of the relevance of the non-English language document(s) appears below:
- ☐ 6. Copies of the documents were cited by or submitted to the Office in an IDS that complies with 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)-(c) in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_, filed \_\_\_\_\_, which is relied upon for an earlier filing date under 35 U.S.C. § 120. Thus, copies of these documents are not attached. 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(d).

It is respectfully requested that the Examiner initial and return a copy of the enclosed PTO-1449, and indicate in the official file wrapper of this patent application that the documents have been considered.

The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-0036. A duplicate copy of this pleading is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.



Molly A. McCall  
Attorney for Applicant  
Registration No. 46,126

Date: 5/16/2001

1100 New York Avenue, N.W.  
Suite 600  
Washington, D.C. 20005-3934  
(202) 371-2600

#4

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

1100 NEW YORK AVENUE, N.W. • WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3934

PHONE: (202) 371-2600 • FACSIMILE: (202) 371-2540 • www.skpf.com

ROBERT GREENE STERNE  
EDWARD J. KESSLER  
JORGE A. GOLDSTEIN  
SAMUEL L. FOX\*\*\*  
DAVID K.S. CORNWELL  
ROBERT W. ESMOND  
TRACY-GENE G. DURKIN  
MICHELE A. CIMBALA  
MICHAEL B. RAY  
ROBERT E. SOKOHL  
ERIC K. STEFFE  
MICHAEL Q. LEE  
STEVEN R. LUDWIG

JOHN M. COVERT  
LINDA E. ALCORN  
ROBERT C. MILLONIG  
MICHAEL V. MESSINGER  
JUDITH U. KIM  
TIMOTHY J. SHEA, JR.  
DONALD R. MCPHAIL  
PATRICK E. GARRETT  
JEFFREY T. HELVEY\*  
HEIDI L. KRAUS  
JEFFREY R. KURIN  
RAYMOND MILLIEN  
PATRICK D. O'BRIEN

LAWRENCE B. BUGAISKY  
CRYSTAL D. SAYLES  
EDWARD W. YEE  
ALBERT L. FERRO\*  
DONALD R. BANOWIT  
PETER A. JACKMAN  
MOLLY A. MCCALL  
TERESA U. MEDLER  
JEFFREY S. WEAVER  
KRISTIN K. VIDOVICH  
KENDRICK P. PATTERSON  
DONALD J. FEATHERSTONE  
GRANT E. REED

VINCENT L. CAPUANO  
JOHN A. HARROUN\*  
ALBERT J. FASULO II\*  
ELDORA ELLISON FLOYD\*  
W. RUSSELL SWINDELL  
THOMAS C. FIALA  
BRIAN J. DEL BUONO\*  
VIRGIL L. BEASTON\*  
RYAN J. STAMPER\*  
KAREN R. MARKOWICZ\*\*  
SUZANNE E. ZISKA\*\*  
ANDREA J. KAMAGE\*\*  
NANCY J. LEITH\*\*

ELIZABETH J. HAAKE\*\*  
MARK P. TERRY\*\*  
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DOUGLAS M. WILSON\*\*  
REGINALD D. LUCAS\*\*  
ANN E. SUMMERFIELD\*\*  
CYNTHIA M. BOUCHEZ\*\*  
HELENE C. CARLSON\*\*  
BRUCE E. CHALKER\*\*  
DUSTIN T. JOHNSON\*\*  
MATTHEW J. DOWD\*\*

\*LIMITED TO MATTERS  
AND PROCEEDINGS BEFORE  
FEDERAL COURTS & AGENCIES  
\*\*REGISTERED PATENT AGENT  
\*\*\*SENIOR COUNSEL

WRITER'S DIRECT NUMBER:

(202) 218-7817

INTERNET ADDRESS:

MAMCALL@SKGF.COM

May 16, 2001

GROUP ART UNIT: 2176  
Examiner: Heather Herndon

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Re: U.S. Utility Patent Application  
Appl. No. 09/545,564; Filed: April 7, 2000  
For: Patent-Related Tools and Methodology for Use in Research and  
Development Projects  
Inventors: Germeraad *et al.*  
Our Ref: 1531.0310001

Sir:

Transmitted herewith for appropriate action are the following documents:

1. Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) (*in duplicate*);
2. Form PTO-1449 with eleven (11) accompanying documents; and
3. One return post card.



Commissioner for Patents

May 16, 2001

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It is respectfully requested that the attached postcard be stamped with the date of filing of these documents, and that it be returned to our courier. In the event that extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this patent application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned.

The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-0036. A duplicate copy of this letter is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.



Molly A. McCall  
Attorney for Applicants  
Registration No. 46,126

MQL/MAM/tp  
Enclosures